

**ABSTRACT**

5 The present invention provides a method of performing  
hot start PCR reactions. The method is based on  
sequestration of magnesium ions in the form of a precipitate  
which renders a DNA polymerase inactive until the  
appropriate time in the PCR reaction when a certain  
temperature is reached and the magnesium ions are released  
from the precipitate. Also provided are kits comprising  
10 reagents and instructions for amplifying a target nucleic  
acid by the magnesium precipitate hot start.